

Washington D.C. - Rep. Lungren (R-CA) voted to impose new sanctions on the Iranian regime in the hopes it will discourage that country from moving forward with its nuclear weapons program. The Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, passed by a vote of 412 to 12. Congressman Lungren released the following statement:

"We must exhaust every option at our disposal - diplomatic and economic - to send a message to Iran that we will not sit idle while they deceive the international community about their nuclear program.

"Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has grown increasingly belligerent toward the West and toward Israel in particular. We know Iran is the most active state sponsor of terrorism and is actively pursuing nuclear technology that potentially could be used in an offensively.

"We have an obligation to ourselves and the world community to take the threat of a nuclear Iran seriously and do all we can to reach a peaceful solution."

Bill Background: Iran depends significantly on revenue from energy exports. Despite past sanctions such as the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (referred to now as the Iran Sanctions Act, or the ISA), which has been renewed for five-year periods twice since its enactment, Iran continues to develop its nuclear program. For these reasons, tougher sanctions are necessary to force Iran to cease its program. This bill closes loopholes regarding investigations of activities eligible for sanctions.

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees